



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

April 25, 2001

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Backs Accountability in H.R. 1

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* today endorsed the Bush approach to accountability in an editorial. Excerpts are included below:

"[President] Bush's *No Child Left Behind* proposal, to be included in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, is important because it demands accountability."

"It requires, for example, testing in the early grades to ensure that children know how to read. The most innovative component of the education plan is the school choice plank. [President Bush] is asking Congress to approve a plan that grants parents with children at Title I schools stipends to buy educational services elsewhere."

"A study by the American Legislative Exchange Council entitled 'Report Card on American Education' released this week found that per-pupil spending nationwide has increased 22.8 percent in the past two years. Yet 69 percent of eighth-graders are still reading below proficiency."

"In Georgia, per-pupil expenditures jumped 54 percent from 1979 to 1999. Yet, 75 percent of Georgia's eighth-grade pupils were not proficient readers on the National Assessment of Educational Progress."

"We aren't eager to see the federal government take on a larger role when it comes to education. But it can play a role in demanding more accountability from schools and experimenting with competition. An education bill that's top-heavy with new money and has no accountability will certainly leave children behind."

Message of the Day

President Bush's message is clear: Public schools must educate our children, and we will hold them accountable for results -- not just for how quickly they spend taxpayer money.

- *Until we have a system of real accountability in place to ensure that public schools using federal education dollars are teaching our children, it is not wise to pursue massive increases in federal education spending.*
- *This is the approach Washington has followed in the past -- and as a tragic consequence, many children have been trapped in chronically failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Washington has spent nearly \$130 billion since 1965 -- and more than \$80 billion in the past decade alone -- in a well-intentioned but unsuccessful effort to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.
- H.R. 1 refocuses federal education spending back toward its original goal of helping America's disadvantaged students by establishing a rigorous system of rewards and sanctions for states and school districts to hold them accountable for increasing student achievement.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Pouring more money into an unreformed system is a recipe for failure." *New York Post* editorial, April 25, 2001